

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06535 180708Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-09 /022 W
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P R 180552Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4075
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 6535

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, AS, JA
SUBJ: POSSIBLE STORMFURY PROGRAM IN AUSTRALIA

REF: STATE 200174

1. EMBASSY APPROACHED AUSTRALIANS AUGUST 10 AS REQUESTED
REFTEL TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER AUSTRALIANS WOULD OBJECT TO OUR
DISCUSSING PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN STORMFURY PROGRAM WITH
JAPANESE. EMBASSY HAS NOW BEEN ADVISED BY DR. MORRIS
VENNING, OFFICE OF ADVISER ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE
ENVIRONMENT IN DFA, THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY APPEARS TO HAVE
MISUNDERSTOOD ITS INSTRUCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO DRAFT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, AND THAT DRAFT SHOULD NOT BE
REGARDED AS HAVING ANY OFFICIAL STANDING.

2. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH
PROBLEMS OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY WHICH MIGHT
ARISE FROM STORMFURY. AUSTRALIANS HAVE HAD A FAIR SHARE
OF NOAA'S VIEWS, BUT THEY WANTED TO HAVE STATE DEPARTMENT'S.
AUSTRALIANS BELIEVE U.S.SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO INDEMNIFY
AUSTRALIA FULLY FOR ANY LIABILITY, LOCAL OR INTERNATIONAL,
WHICH MIGHT ARISE FROM STORMFURY EXPERIMENTS, AND THEY WERE
PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HAVING SOME INDICATION OF STATE
DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE IN THIS AREA.

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3. DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED
WITHIN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. WHEN IT WAS PROVIDED TO
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WAS TOLD THAT GOA
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ALONG WITH ANY
STATE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTIONS FOR REDRAFTING IN LIABILITY
AREA. THUS, WHILE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY

DIRECTED NOT TO PRESENT U.S. WITH DRAFT, AUSTRALIANS
REGARDED IT SIMPLY AS AN INTERNAL WORKING DRAFT WHICH WOULD
CERTAINLY BE REVISED AND WHICH WOULD NOT NECESSARILY EVER
BE APPROVED WITHIN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

4. ACCORDINGLY, AUSTRALIAN STORMFURY PROJECT SHOULD NOT BE
DISCUSSED WITH JAPANESE, NOR SHOULD ANY FURTHER ACTION BE
INITIATED ON BASIS OF DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING,
OTHER THAN THAT OF LIMITED NATURE DESCRIBED IN PARAS 2 AND 3
ABOVE.
ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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